



THE FLAGGSHIP NEWS



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A Coalition of Essential Schools

November 18, 2002



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**Dr. Beverly Roberts
School Principal**

Principal's Message October 2002

As your new Dr. E. Alma Flagg School Principal, let me begin by saying thank you to all the parents, staff, students, and community for your support and trust. I also thank you for all the work you do

to better our school. Without your commitment and dedication, Dr. E.

This year, data collection and analyses via Criteria Referenced Tests (CRT) is a primary focus. Data is

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Alma Flagg School could not be recognized for its educational excellence. All of you should be proud of the accomplishments we are making in education and the support you give to aid students' achievement.

SCHOOL OPENS WITH A CELEBRATION

The Dr. E. Alma Flagg School commenced the 2002-2003 school year on

September 9th with a festive celebration in which administrators, teachers, parents, students, and members of the community all took part.

The program began with the flag salute led by students

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DR. E. ALMA FLAGG SCHOOL PAYS TRIBUTE ON SEPTEMBER 11TH

By: Phyllis Donoghue

The Dr. E. Alma Flagg School Community remembered the events of 9/11 in a very special way. On September

11th all of the students and school staff assembled on the playground at 9:30 a.m., and the tribute began with the flag salute and the singing of the *National Anthem*.

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Open House At Dr. E. Alma Flagg School

On Oct. 2, two hundred fifty parents attended Open House from 3:00-5:00 P.M. Volunteer students from grades 7 and 8 served as ushers. Parents were invited to socialize and partake of refreshments, and they enjoyed meeting and greeting old and new friends.

The tone was set for Open House on Tuesday Oct. 1, with a visit from a special and welcomed guest, Dr. E. Alma Flagg, a former principal for whom the school was

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giving us the information we need to identify groups of students for the sake of closing achievement gaps and increasing literacy. We have also begun to increase student resources that are available to take home.

Adequate tools and resources go hand-in-hand with positive school-home-community relationships that must exist as Dr. E. Alma Flagg School. If our goal is to have successful students, we must lead by example. We must expend the effort to strengthen our working relationships and make them productive. When such relationships exist, the results will be found in the achievement of our students.

For purposes of accountability and social-emotional nurturing, we have strategically configured the school into a Primary Division (Gr. K-2), an Elementary Division (Gr. 3-5), and a Middle School Division (Gr. 6-8) - each division having its own administrator.

This year, Dr. E. Alma Flagg School will be literacy-based yet child-centered. To accomplish this goal our teachers use Rigby Literacy, the "Novels Initiative", Portfolio Assessment, Quarterly Criteria-Referenced Tests (CRT), and Cognitive Apprenticeship Consulting. We are currently establishing Guided Reading and Guided Writing across all grade levels. Our teachers also use



Differentiated Instruction and Flexible Grouping practices. A Comprehensive Word Study program is employed and enriched in our After School programs. All mathematics, social studies, science, and health classes are aligned with our literacy goals. Before, during, and after each lesson reading and writing strategies are explicitly taught. Our mathematics curriculum is aligned with the district's innovative programs, using the *Everyday Math* and *Connected Math* series. Teachers emphasize mastery of concepts such as Problem Solving, Number Sense, Geometry and Spatial Sense, Measurement, and Fractions/Probability/Statistics.

We ask all parents and caregivers to support increased literacy by ensuring that all children do homework daily, as homework reinforcement is a vital part of learning. To support parents in this endeavor, Dr. E. Alma Flagg School is opening a Homework Center from 3:00 pm. to 4:00 p.m., (Mondays through Thursdays). Our tutorial

programs for Fourth and Eighth Graders prepare for ESPA and GEPA begins November 18th.

In closing, please be reminded that the new federal legislation, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, ensures that "all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments". It also stipulates that "The school as a whole must make consistent, substantial improvement". This legislation relies heavily on the involvement of parents and community. We must agree that children are maturing people, who spend a great part of their waking hours at school. Parents who have a natural affinity for the child's growth and success must work collaboratively with the school and community alliances to ensure that the students at Dr. E. Alma Flagg get a quality education and attain proficiency or higher on state academic assessments.

I look forward to our growth together at Dr. E. Alma Flagg School.

Sincerely,

Beverly A. Roberts, Ed. D.
Principal



Coalition Of Essential Schools News

By: Lydia Donofrio
CES Facilitator

On behalf of the entire Dr. E. Alma Flagg community, I would like to welcome Dr. Beverly Roberts to our school. Dr. Roberts comes to Dr. Flagg with extensive educational experience and enormous energy that will certainly translate into making Dr. Flagg one of the best schools in Newark. I know that the teachers, parents and the entire school community will give her the support and encouragement that is needed in order that her vision for our school is realized. We also have a new Vice Principal Mr. Calvin Mott. Mr. Mott has served in the Newark school system as a classroom teacher and administrator for the past twelve years. His dedication to our school and the performance of our students is evident. We welcome him and know that his tenure at Dr. Flagg will be successful.

This year we will complete the ten principles of the Coalition of Essential Schools. Our teachers and students are aware of the principles and implement them in their teaching and classroom assignments.

1) Learn To Use Your Mind

Well

- 2) Less Is More. Depth Over Coverage
- 3) Goals Apply To All Students
- 4) Personalization
- 5) Student As Worker. Teacher As Coach

6) Demonstration Of

Mastery

- 7) A Tone Of Decency And Trust
- 8) Commitment To Entire School
- 9) Resources Dedicated To Teaching And Learning
- 10) Democracy And Equity

CES KIDS is back for a second year. Last year the program proved to be very successful. Teachers reported that their students were motivated both academically and behaviorally in order to be named a CES KID. We will follow the same outline for the program as last year. Every Friday for the remainder of the school year homeroom teachers will select a student who exemplifies the principles of CES, "A Tone of Decency and Trust" and "Using Their Minds Well". These students will have

the opportunity to wear a CES T-shirt that identifies them as a CES Kid for the day. Pictures of selected students will be displayed on a CES bulletin board. The hope is that through this program CES will continue to be a real and meaningful part of Dr. E. Alma Flagg School for the students as well as the faculty.

In other news, through workshops, we will continue from last year to implement Collaborative Friends Groups (CFG'S). CFG'S provide a framework for teachers to discuss and evaluate the quality of student work and classroom practices in an atmosphere that will promote honesty and professional growth. These groups will prove to be extremely helpful towards our goal of improving student achievement.

The after school Lego Robotics Program will also be continued this year through our CSRD Grant. Ms. Cignarella continues as the program's supervisor and creator. In addition to Lego Robotics, we are implementing Spectrum Science for second graders. As soon as the materials and the training of the teachers is in place students and parents will be notified.



Parent Resource Room

By: Mrs. Ortega

My name is Mrs. Ortega and I am the Parent Liaison here at Dr. E. Alma Flagg School. I am available to answer any questions you may have or direct you to the appropriate staff member. The Parent Resource Room is located in room 124, across from the cafeteria. Parents are welcome to join us for coffee every morning. Parents in need of information or assistance will be able to find printed resource materials such as job availability, a monthly school calendar, medical, childcare, educational, in the parent room and . Ms. Moore, the Social Worker, is also available throughout the entire day to offer assistance.

The following are parent classes available here at Flagg: Spanish and English Classes every Wednesday morning at 8:30 am. Spanish class is held in the parent room and is taught by Mrs. Irizzary and the English class is held in Mrs. Perez's classroom, upstairs in the library. The Computer Classes have not begun but will be announced soon. We also have two Parent Workshops per month here at Dr. E. Alma Flagg School. There are also different events at other schools throughout Newark. These classes, workshop and meetings will be posted in the parent



room or a flyer sent home.

We also have Coffee with Administrators and Parents every two weeks, at which time parents can make suggestions and address their concerns. Please feel free to stop by and visit our parent room.



School Management Improvement Team

By: Mrs. Shillingford.

We have dubbed the year of 2002-2003 as the year of great success and high expectations. Thus we challenge ourselves to persevere in our ability and professionalism. Over the years since our inception, the team has developed and matured as a highly professional working unit. We are intent on eradicating weaknesses, strengthening, and sustaining positives. We pride ourselves in our ability to effectively collaborate to improve instruction, staff development, security parental involvement and

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FOSTERING PARENT/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

UNITY - A POEM

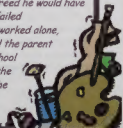
*I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors
there,
The clay they used was a young
child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.*

*One was a teacher, the tools he
used
Were books and music and art:
One was a parent with a guiding
hand
And a gentle loving heart.*

*Day after day, the teacher
toiled
With a touch that was deft and
sure,
While the parent labored by his
side
And polished and smoothed it
o'er.*

*And when at last their task was
done,
They were proud of what they
had wrought:
For the things they had molded
into the child
Could neither be sold nor bought.*

*And each agreed he would have
failed
If he had worked alone,
For behind the parent
stood the school
And behind the
teacher, the
home.*



Substance Awareness At Flag

By: Sharon Cook Substance
Awareness
Coordinator

Drug and alcohol abuse continues to disrupt our communities, erode our families and set back our students. We can, **FIGHT BACK!**

We will be fighting back at Dr. E. Alma Flagg School by celebrating **Red Ribbon Week** October 28, 2002- November 1, 2002. Students and staff will be wearing red ribbons to symbolize our commitment to the development of healthy drug-free choices.

Our weeklong celebration will include activities for students and staff. On Monday, October 28, 2002 we will be celebrating **Team Up Against Drugs Day**. We will be wearing clothing and accessories of our favorite sports team or community organization. Wednesday, October 30, 2002, is **Sock It To Drugs Day** when staff and students will be wearing their craziest or favorite socks. The last day of our celebration will be on Friday, November 1, 2002, which

will be **Living Drug-Free Is No Sweat Day** when we will be sweating out drugs in our sweat suits.



In addition to the theme days listed above, your children will be involved in many other activities which will let them know that **Drug-Free Is The Way To Bee** at Dr. E. Alma Flagg School!



Dr. E. Alma Flagg School Launches *Operation Bookworm!*

By: Phyllis Donoghue,
Teacher Tutor

During the 2002-2003 school year students in grades K, 1, and 6 will be participating in a unique volunteer reading program known as **Operation Bookworm**. This program is designed to help unlock the

mystery of reading, spark interest in learning, and develop the kind of thinking needed to be a successful reader. Once a week, for 50 minutes, the 6th grade students will visit the K-1 classrooms and read books with their "Bookworm reading buddies".

On October 11, twelve volunteer students in grade 6 (Janel Austin, Pedro Leon, Eduardo Fraticelli, Terrance Golson, Taquannah McDaniels, Elizabeth Williams, Steffany Castillo, Fahcem Merrill, Nelson Moreno, Khamila Solomon, Latisha Rutledge and Tiajahre Staton) were given a 2-hour training session and a book entitled *Let's Read Together* by the co-creators of the program, Ellen Gordon and Eileen Zweig. During the workshop the sixth graders were shown how to use motivational techniques, ask higher level thinking questions, and create story activities. Training sessions and the book were also provided for K-1 teachers, teacher assistants, and parents.

As a result of this program, the participants will most certainly have enriching and exciting experiences that will positively affect them as life long readers and learners.



DANCE ENSEMBLE GOES TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DANCE

By: Ms. Greene

On Thursday, October 3, 2002, the Dr. E. Alma Flagg and Mt. Vernon Dance Ensembles, (Ms. Greene, Ms. Williams and students from both schools) traveled to Saratoga Springs, New York, to visit the National Museum of Dance. The day started with a three-hour bus ride on a luxurious coach bus. Upon arriving at the museum, the dancers took a ballet class in the professional dance studio, which is the resident rehearsal space for the New York City Ballet. After class was over, the dancers were invited to watch a professional rehearsal of the Paul Taylor Dance Company. When rehearsal was over the dancers were taken to the main foyer of the museum to see the exhibits. The first exhibit "Classic Black" highlighted famous African American dancers who trained in classical ballet.



Our dancers learned about such greats as Arthur Mitchell, Alvin Ailey, Katherine Dunham, Judith Jamison, Geoffrey Holder, Carmen De Lavallade and Janet Collins. Then it was off to the Hall of Fame where our dancers read and viewed pictures of great dance legends such as George Balanchine,

Isadora Duncan, Martha Graham, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Fred Astaire, Ted Shawn and The Nicholas Brothers. After lunch our dancers were challenged to a dance scavenger hunt in the Hall of Fame. The dancers raced around the museum searching for famous dancers on their list. At last it was time to leave, but all of the dancers vowed they would be back one day. Hopefully one day they too will be in the Dancers Hall of Fame.



Health and Social Services Corner

By: Ms. Moore

We are the Health and Social Services team @ Dr. E. Alma Flagg School. The Team consists of the whole school reform social worker, Ms. Moore, the guidance counselor, Ms. Bonaparte, substance abuse awareness coordinator, Ms. Cook, attendance counselor, Mr. Villegas, parent liaison, Mrs. Ortega, and the Nurse Ms. Ku.

The team addresses the vast and difficult issue and concerns within our community. We strive to

relieve the stressors that might hinder our students learning and academic progress.

The emotional and social needs of the students and their families are met by providing guidance, counseling, resource materials and community referrals.

This school year the team members will host a variety of activities i.e. a clothes drive, attendance incentives, violence prevention programs, peer mediation, health education and student, parent and staff

workshops on needed services. We welcome any suggestions from students, parents and staff.

If we work together as a community the children will be the benefactors!



Technology at Dr. E. Alma Flagg

By: Ms. Courtnier

Dr. E. Alma Flagg School's Technology Lab has been updated and networked. The computers are faster and have internet access via a cable modem. It is located between the library and the art rooms. Our goal is to equip our student with the latest technology and the ability to use it. As a result, we hope they acquire the skills they will need to achieve both scholastically and in the job market.

A select group of our 4th graders are involved in a special Liberty Science ITV program. This program links our fourth graders with two other schools and the Liberty Science Center. They are learning about habitats and natural communities in their E-Trail: The Natural House. Students explore the basic needs for all animal life: shelter, food, and a water source. They work collaboratively with Mrs. Quigley, the Lead Science Teacher, and Mrs. Courtnier, the Technology Coordinator to create their own Natural House. These houses will be on display for at Liberty Science Center's Community nights on December 11th.

In November, computer classes for parents will be offered. Instruction in computer software based upon the needs of the class will be provided as well as an introduction to some new exciting websites just for parents. All parents are welcome with open arms to come and learn how technology can benefit their lives. All we ask is that parents volunteer for a few hours after classes.

In December, Dr. E. Alma Flagg will be participating in the Newark Public School's Computer Fair 2002. The theme this year is "It Takes A Whole Village To Raise A Child". Students explore their community and think of ways to revitalize it. Children create their own community planning committee and create attractions that will benefit the people of Newark. The event will be held on the Rutgers campus. All parents are invited to attend.



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named. She toured the building and is working with Dr. Roberts to improve student achievement. Dr. Flagg is scheduled to return to the school on December 2, to work with some of the students on a special project (making homemade soap.)

At the Open House meeting the principal, Dr. Beverly Roberts, welcomed everyone and spoke of her anticipation of an exciting and productive 2002-2003 school year. During her address she emphasized the vital role that parental involvement plays in the educational process of children, and she encouraged the parents to visit the school often. Dr. Roberts explained the organization of the school as having three divisions: a Primary Division (grades K-2), an

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every aspect effecting students achievement.

The accomplishments have been small but progressive. This year, empowered with training and experience, we recommit ourselves to the task of serving our school community unconditionally.

The School Management Improvement Team would like to express a warm welcome to Dr. Roberts, the new principal of E. Alma Flagg and Mr. Mott our new Vice Principal.

We are pleased to work with our other Vice Principal Mrs. Cignarella. Together, the administration, the school improvement team and everyone involved will strive for continuous success.

Elementary Division (grades 3-5) and a Middle School Division (grades 6-8). She characterized each division as being unique with its own interests and needs. Dr. Roberts also encouraged the parents to purchase school uniforms for their children, especially in grades K-2.

The school band under the direction of the music teacher, Mr. Bell, entertained everyone. The highlight of the occasion was when parents were given the opportunity to visit their children's classrooms to meet the teachers and review student work.

This event was truly a positive educational experience for the entire learning community of Dr. E. Alma Flagg School.

A COALITION OF ESSENTIAL
SCHOOLS

All Children Will Learn!



Dr. E. Alma Flagg
Elementary School

150 3rd Street
Newark, NJ 07107
Phone: 973-268-5190

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/flagg/
index.htm](http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/flagg/index.htm)

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Christina Ortega and Shaila Perez. Rev. Thomas Reddick, pastor of the Renaissance Church of Newark, spoke inspiring words of encouragement to all assembled.

Dr. Beverly Roberts, the new principal of the school, delivered a welcoming address. She enthusiastically spoke about her goals and objectives for the upcoming school year. The guest speaker was former principal, Dr. E. Alma Flagg, for whom the school was named. She offered warm greetings and words which helped to remind everyone of their duties and responsibilities toward education. Also, the Vice Principals Mrs. Cignarella and Mr. Mott, as well as the WSR Social Worker, Ms. Moore spoke to the gathering explaining some of the wonderful academic and social programs offered at Dr. Flagg School.

The audience was entertained by Dr. Roberts and a group of teachers directed by Mrs. Troublefield, an eighth grade teacher, and accompanied by Mr. Bell,

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Principal, Dr. Beverly Roberts, addressed the assembly. Her eloquent words reminded everyone of the importance of remembering the tragic events of one year ago. At 9:59 she called for a moment of silence in respect for all those who perished in the tragedy.

Under the supervision of the art teacher, Mr. Cutler, the primary students in grades K-2 formed a human flag displaying the colors red, white and blue while the rest

of the student body stood in formation around them. The 8th grade students directed by their teacher, Mrs. Troublefield, and accompanied by Mr. Bell, the music teacher, led everyone in the singing of *America the Beautiful* and *God Bless America*.

The program was concluded with solemn inspirational words delivered by Rev. Santiago Perez.



the music teacher. They sang a rendition of *I Need You to Survive*. Also, Ms. Green, the dance teacher, performed an interpretive dance.

The program was concluded with motivational words spoken by Rev. Santiago Perez who is the pastor of Hosanna Christian Church in Elizabeth. Refreshments followed including a delicious cake with the inscription, "First Day of School Celebration." A good time was had by all.

